

That which is claimed:

1. A method of routing incoming communications to a wireless terminal, the method comprising:
 - 5 associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal;
 - determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied;
 - routing an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the wireless terminal identifier when the alternate routing rule has not been satisfied or based on the alternate routing identifier when the alternate routing rule has been satisfied.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining the availability on a network of the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining whether a threshold amount of memory is available in the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining whether the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier is a predefined type of wireless terminal.
- 25 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining whether a predefined service is available for the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier.
- 30 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining whether the incoming communication is a predefined type of communication.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied is based on at least one of time and day.

5 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied is based on whether a predefined routing identifier has been received from a user.

10 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises:
defining the alternate routing identifier at the wireless terminal; and
communicating the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to a wireless network.

15 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein communicating the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to the wireless network comprises
communicating the alternate routing identifier as a data message from the wireless terminal to the wireless network.

20 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises:
defining at the wireless terminal an alternate phone number to which a call to the wireless terminal is to be redirected;
communicating the phone number as the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to a wireless network; and
associating the alternate phone number with the wireless terminal identifier at the wireless network.

25 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein:
determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises
determining that the incoming communication comprises a data message; and
routing an incoming communication comprises routing the data message based on at least one of an internet address that is associated with the alternate routing identifier, a telephone number for a mobile terminal that is associated with the

alternate routing identifier, and a telephone number for a pager that is associated with the alternate routing identifier.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

5 determining whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied comprises determining that the incoming communication comprises a text message; and routing an incoming communication comprises converting the text message to an audible signal, and routing the audible signal based on the alternate routing identifier.

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14. A wireless network that routes incoming communications to a wireless terminal, the wireless network comprising:

a registry that is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal; and

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a mobile switching center that is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied, and is configured to route an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the wireless terminal identifier when the alternate routing rule has not been satisfied or based on the alternate routing identifier when the alternate routing rule has been satisfied.

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15. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied by determining the availability on a network of the wireless terminal that is associated 25 with the wireless terminal identifier.

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16. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied by determining whether a threshold amount of memory is available in the wireless 30 terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier.

17. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied

by determining whether the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier is a predefined type of wireless terminal.

18. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching
5 center is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied by determining whether a predefined service is available for the wireless terminal that is associated with the wireless terminal identifier.

19. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching
10 center is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied by determining whether the incoming communication is a predefined type of communication.

20. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching
15 center is configured to route the incoming communication based on the wireless terminal identifier or the alternate routing identifier based on at least one of time and day.

21. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching
20 center is configured to route the incoming communication based on the wireless terminal identifier or the alternate routing identifier based on whether a predefined routing identifier has been received from a user.

22. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the registry is configured
25 to associate a plurality of alternate routing identifiers with the wireless terminal identifier.

23. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching
center is configured to sequentially determine the availability of communication
30 devices associated with the plurality of alternate routing identifiers when the alternate routing rule has been satisfied, and to route the incoming communication based on the determination of the availability of the communication devices.

24. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to simultaneously route the incoming communication to at least some of the plurality of alternate routing identifiers when the alternate routing rule has been satisfied.

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25. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein:
the registry is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier with an alternative data routing identifier and an alternative voice routing identifier; and
the mobile switching center is configured to route the incoming
10 communication based on the data routing identifier when the incoming communication comprises a data message, and is configured to route the incoming communication based on the voice routing identifier when the incoming communication comprises a voice call.

15 26. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to convert an incoming text message to an audible signal and to route the audible signal based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

20 27. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to convert an incoming voice call to a text message and to route the text message based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

25 28. The wireless network of Claim 14, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to record an incoming voice call as a data message when the wireless terminal is not available, and is configured to route the data message based on the alternate routing identifier.

30 29. A computer program product for routing incoming communications to a wireless terminal, the computer program product comprising program code embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, the computer program code comprising:

program code that is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier with an alternate routing identifier;

program code that is configured to determine whether an alternate routing rule has been satisfied; and

- 5 program code that is configured to route an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the wireless terminal identifier when the alternate routing rule has not been satisfied or based on the alternate routing identifier when the alternate routing rule has been satisfied.